

Appendix E.

Fox River Headwaters Workshop Materials

This appendix contains materials provided to participants at the Fox River Headwaters Ecosystem Workshop held March 8, 2002:

- ❖ Workshop agenda
- ❖ Workshop attendees list
- ❖ brief methodology for site identification and reporting
- ❖ sample scoring form
- ❖ records contributed by Workshop participants, sorted by team (records submitted following the workshop are provided at the end of the appendix)

Fox River Headwaters Ecosystem Significant Ecological Areas Workshop

March 8, 2002

Workshop Purposes

- Increase our common understanding of the ecological features of the Fox River Headwaters Ecosystem.
- Work in teams to assess the significance of sites, based on a set of ecological attributes.
- Understand how the workshop results will be reported and used.

Workshop Agenda

10:00 a.m.	Welcome and Agenda Review
	Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ecology of the Fox River Headwaters Ecosystem (FRHE) b. Methods: Coarse Filter Inventory, Contributed Information, and Mapping
10:30	Instructions for Teams
10:45	Team Session #1 Introduce team members. Become familiar with the maps and spreadsheets. Examine the distribution of sites throughout the FRHE.
11:15	Whole Group. Brief reporting and instructions for Session #2.
11:30	Team Session #2 Using the maps and spreadsheets and following your facilitator's instructions, assess the ecological significance of the Sites assigned to your team.
12:15 p.m.	Lunch Break
12:45	Team Session #2, continued Recorders: turn in a copy of your team's worksheet for computer entry
1:45	"Open House" Select one other team station to visit (facilitators remain) and work with the facilitator to offer feedback on their work.
2:15	Whole Group. Review the day's product, a map of recommended high priority sites in the FRHE, showing the combined results of all teams.

2:45	Next Steps and Evaluation
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3:00	Adjourn
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Workshop Guidelines

Guidelines for Team Work

- ▶ Note the range of expertise among the members of your group and make space for each member to participate.
 - Who are contributors of sites and site information?
 - Who has on-the-ground knowledge of the area?
 - Who can support the process by asking good questions, integrating information, and summarizing ideas?
- ▶ Help support the facilitators and recorders.
- ▶ Help keep us on topic and on time – use the *woodpile*.

Guidelines for Today's Outcomes

- ▶ The teams are asked to assess the current ecological significance of the sites, each on their own merit, using the ecological attributes provided.
- ▶ Today's process is as important as the product. That is, the communication among participants and the increased common knowledge of the ecology of the FRHE area is an important and intended outcome.
- ▶ We need to stay focused on today's task. Other aspects of the analysis will take place after the workshop and during WDNR Feasibility Analysis.
- ▶ Issues to be addressed later include site size and boundaries; ecological significance of sites on statewide and national levels; and the sensitivity of sites to surrounding land use and other potential threats to ecological integrity.

Fox River Headwaters Ecosystem Workshop

Workshop Attendees

* Indicate Contributors that provided site information

Blue Group

Pat Arndt*, Berlin School Forest/Educator-Berlin
Richard Bautz*, DNR- Integrated Science Services
Dr. William Brooks, Ripon College
Daryl Christensen*, Private Individual
Bettie Harriman*, Wisconsin Society for Ornithology
Linda Hyatt, DNR- Upper Fox Water Team Leader
Mike Penning, DNR- Facilities & Lands
Jerry Reetz*, DNR- Wildlife Management
William Smith*, DNR- Endangered Resources
Walter Walker, Private Individual

Green Group

David Algrem, DNR- Law Enforcement
Nancy Cervantes*, DNR- Wildlife Management
Andy Clark, DNR- Endangered Resources
Elward Engle*, DNR (retired)
Mike Engel*, U S Fish & Wildlife Service
Eric Epstein*, DNR- Endangered Resources
Barry Gilbeck*, DNR- Customer Assistance & External Relations
Rod Glaman, DNR- Forestry
Darcy Kind*, DNR- Endangered Resources
Scott Provost*, DNR- Fisheries Management & Habitat Protection
Curt Wilson, DNR- Northeast Regional Land & Forestry Leader

Yellow Group

Randall Berndt*, Private Individual
Jim Congdon, DNR- Rock River Basin Water Leader
Tom Eddy*, Private Individual/Educator-Green Lake
Jim Kronschnabel*, DNR (retired)
Betty Les, DNR- Endangered Resources
Mark Martin*, DNR- Endangered Resources
Tom Nigus*, DNR- Upper Fox Land & Forestry Team Leader
Steve Prissel, Natural Resource Conservation Service, USDA
Ted Pyrek, DNR- Lower Wisconsin Land & Forestry Team Leader
Shelly Schaetz, DNR- Integrated Science Services
Jed Ungrodt*, Clark Forestry, Inc.

Purple Group

Susan Borkin, Milwaukee Public Museum
Kim Grveles*, Adams County Land Conservation Department

David Hamel*, Private Individual
Shelly Hamel*, Private Individual
Rebecca Isenring, DNR- Central Wisconsin Land & Forestry Team Leader
Ruth Johnson, DNR- Fisheries Management & Habitat Protection
Steve Lenz*, U S Fish & Wildlife Service
Gretchen Miller, Twin Lakes Conservancy, Inc.
Don O'Keene*, Twin Lakes Conservancy, Inc.
Jim Tomasko*, DNR- Facilities & Lands
Nicole Van Helden*, The Nature Conservancy, Inc.

Red Group

Christi Buffington, URS Corporation
Tim Ehlinger*, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Carrie Fhyte*, Adams County Land Conservation Department
Randy Hoffman*, DNR- Endangered Resources
Neil Johnson, Buffalo Lake District
Pat Kaiser, DNR- Wildlife Management
Frank Kirschling, DNR- Forestry
Diane Kitchen*, U S Fish & Wildlife Service
James Motycha*, Buffalo Lake District
Dave Paynter*, DNR- Fisheries Management & Habitat Protection
Dennis Schroeder, Buffalo Lake District

Workshop Organization

Workshop Facilitation/Organization

Anne Forbes, Partners in Place
Andy Galvin, DNR- Endangered Resources
Drew Feldkirchner, DNR- Endangered Resources
Fred Clark*, Clark Forestry, Inc.

Team Facilitators

Kate Barrett- Purple Group, DNR- Watershed Management
Ellen Barth- Red Group, DNR- Upper Fox River Basin Land & Forestry Leader
Jill Mrotek- Green Group, DNR- Facilities & Lands
Rebecca Power- Yellow Group, UW-Extension/ Fox-Wolf Basin Educator
Rob McLennan- Blue Group, DNR- Upper Fox River Basin Water Leader

Note Takers

Craig Anderson, DNR- Endangered Resources
Greg Moeller, DNR- Upper Fox River Basin
Carl Mesman, DNR- Law Enforcement
Janel Pike, DNR- Watershed Management

Fox River Headwaters Ecosystem Workshop

Methods for Site Identification and Reporting

The Sites and Contributor Records presented in the spreadsheets that follow, and on the working maps prepared for the workshop, represent the results of two different, complimentary methodologies for identifying ecologically significant sites. One method, the Coarse Filter screening approach, uses GIS analysis followed by analysis of aerial and satellite images for a “birds-eye” assessment of the entire Fox River Headwaters Ecosystem (FRHE) landscape. The other method is based entirely on observations made by individual contributors who know local sites at an on-the-ground level.

The individual records for the Coarse Filter sites, are represented on the spreadsheets by the prefix CFI (for Clark Forestry, Inc.) and shaded with a light gray screen. The records from individual contributors are represented by a prefix based on the initials of the contributors name and are not shaded.

All records, from the Coarse Filter analysis and Individual Contributors, were combined into Sites based on their ecological characteristics. The working maps show “boundaries” for each Site and the records within it. This resulted in a total of 83 Sites that contain all 192 individual Contributor records and 48 Coarse Filter records.

Records from Coarse Filter Analysis

The Coarse Filter screening approach was modeled after a similar assessment used for the Wolf River Basin in 1999. The objective was to identify sites with high potential for occurrences of threatened, endangered, and special concern species or natural communities, or sites of otherwise high conservation value. The primary emphasis was identification of potential high-quality natural communities. A related goal of the project was to continue to develop a cost effective, easily replicated process to identify sites using GIS and aerial photography.

The Coarse Filter process involved a GIS analysis and follow-up analysis using aerial photography. In order to maintain the cost efficiency of the Coarse Filter approach, this analysis was not supported by extensive ground-surveys or field work, only limited “windshield surveys.” While these methods would provide an important landscape scale analysis of the area, we knew that the methods might miss many small (< 40 acre) areas and areas whose attributes might not be represented by the data and criteria used.

Using various GIS data layers, the staff at Clark Forestry, Inc. consolidated natural communities into general “site types” that could be identified on aerial photos based on their gross morphology, and wouldn't fall through a coarse-grained GIS filter. By assessing the list of NHI element occurrences for the study area (threatened, endangered, and special concern species or natural communities in the NHI database), looking at existing state natural areas, and consulting those personally familiar with the FRHE, CFI developed a set of 10 site types that capture all of the natural communities represented in the study area.

After executing GIS queries, evaluating aerial photography, and conducting windshield surveys, CFI identified **48 potential high-quality sites** covering almost 92,000 acres within the study area. The three lowland site types - open wetlands, forested wetlands, and stream corridors - were the most common and made up 80% of the total acreage. Kettle complexes were the most frequent type on upland sites.

Records from Individual Contributors

The first step in gathering site information was to identify individuals who might have specialized knowledge of the FRHE study area. The workshop design team developed a list of known individuals and sent a letter to each to ascertain their interest and see if they knew of others that should be contacted. Of the total 157 individuals that were contacted, 30 expressed interest in participating and providing information. A Site Information Form and map of the study area were subsequently sent to these folks, requesting that they identify a site boundary and provide information on the ecological characteristics of that site. The result was that 37 individuals (including additional DNR staff that provided information at a later time) provided 192 Contributor Records throughout the study area. These are presented in the spreadsheets and maps as described above.

The Teams for the Workshop

For the purposes of the workshop, the FRHE was divided into 5 teams based on general ecological characteristics of the Sites. These divisions were somewhat arbitrary, as indicated by the fact that the teams are named by color. The distribution of Sites and records by team is as follows:

<i>Team</i>	<i># of Sites</i>	<i># of Coarse Filter Records</i>	<i># of Contributor Records</i>
Green Team	15	8	58
Blue Team	16	14	40
Purple Team	14	10	43
Red Team	19	8	30
Yellow Team	19	8	21

Notice: Completion of this form is voluntary. Data collected will be used to support the Fox River Headwaters Ecosystem study. Personal information (your name) collected on this form is solely intended for use to contact you if DNR staff require additional information.

Site ID #

Note: One form per site

Your Name

Site Name

Site Information

Describe the Site:

Significant Feature(s) (check all that apply):

- ☐ Natural Community(ies): _____
- ☐ Plant(s): _____
- ☐ Animal(s): _____
- ☐ Geologic Feature(s): _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Describe possible threats or future changes:

Describe the Surrounding Land Use:

Site is Surrounded By:

- ☐ more than 75% agricultural or developed land
- ☐ 50-75% agricultural or developed land
- ☐ less than 50% agricultural or developed land

Ownership:

- ☐ Public ☐ Private
- ☐ Public/Private

Proximity to Public Land:

- ☐ site is more than one mile from State ownership
- ☐ site is within one mile of State ownership
- ☐ site adjoins or is partly in State ownership

Estimated Size (acres): _____

Estimated Accuracy of Site Boundary:

- ☐ ¼ mile ☐ 1 mile ☐ 5 miles

Information Format

Information on this site is recorded as:

- ☐ Maps ☐ Database or Spreadsheet
- ☐ Field Notes ☐ Journal/Article

Other _____

Will You Attend the Workshop on March 8, 2002?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please review the instructions on the back regarding how to fill out the Site Form. An example is also provided for your use. An electronic version of this form is available upon request. If you have any questions, please call Tom Nigus at 920-787-4686 ext. 3009.

Please return Site Forms & map by November 26

Additional information and comments about this site can be added to the back of the form.

Site Form Instructions

Below are descriptions of each of the items on the Site Form. Please fill out the Site Forms as best you can – one form per site. We suggest that you focus on describing the site(s) that you have located on the enclosed map, the significant features of each, and the type of information you have. Please be as complete as you can.

Site ID#: Create this ID using your first, middle and last name initials and a site # in numerical order starting with 01 (i.e. Fred Joe Smith would put FJS-01, FJS-02, FJS-03, etc.).

Please be sure the site ID# is also on the map.

Site Name: Provide a name that will distinguish it from all other sites. Base the name on location first and the site's features second (i.e. Bear Creek Pines, Thornton Heron Rookery).

Your Name: Your name.

Site Information

Describe the Site: Describe the site by natural features such as habitat, primary vegetation, wildlife features, lakes, streams and rivers, topography, etc.

Significant Features: What are the significant ecological resources at the site? Check all that apply and provide specific names of communities or species if you can.

Threats and Changes: Are you aware of any potential or planned changes at or near the site that may threaten its ecology (i.e. impending development, proposed projects, change in land use, etc.)?

Surrounding Land Use: Is the site surrounded by forests, farms, developed areas, or wetlands, etc.?

Site Surrounded By: What percentage of the site, especially the highest quality portion of the site, is surrounded by a natural, native or undisturbed landscape?

Ownership: Is the site publicly or privately owned, or both?

Proximity to Public Land: What is the proximity to publicly owned land (estimate distance in miles)?

Estimated Size: Estimate size of site in acres.

Estimated Accuracy: What is your level of confidence in the boundaries of the site that you drew on the map? Do you estimate that they are accurate within a ¼ mile, a 1 mile, or a 5 mile radius of the site?

Information Format

Information Format: What kind of records do you have to document the information on this site? Check as many as apply.

Please note the information you provide will become public information. Provide a level of detail that you are comfortable with. If you are interested in providing data to the Natural Heritage Inventory database, DNR Natural Heritage Inventory staff will work with you to more precisely define your information.

If you have any questions on how to fill out the Site Form or to identify sites on the map, please call Tom Nigus at 920-787-4686, ext. 3009 for assistance.

Mail Site Form and map to Tom Nigus:

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; 427 E. Tower Drive, Suite 100; Wautoma, WI 54982

Additional Comments about the Site: _____

